

Friday, August 26, 2005



Chairman Designate Advocates Continued Attention to Safety at 8th Annual Texas Transportation Summit

On August 10, NTSB Chairman Designate Ellen Engleman Conners delivered the keynote address to a luncheon audience of over 400 private and public sector representatives at the Texas Transportation Summit in Irving, Texas. She encouraged the attendees to keep safety as a high priority when making transportation policy. "Transportation is intermodal, interconnected and international. So, whether it is in the aftermath of a national security incident or a local safety accident, those of us in the transportation community have a responsibility to see that people and goods move safely and securely once again," she stated. Engleman Conners also praised NTSB field and headquarters employees for their work in advancing safety in all modes of transportation. "As a result of their field investigations and follow-up, the Board makes recommendations to the transportation community about how to improve transportation safety. When those safety recommendations are enacted, lives are saved and serious injuries are avoided," she added.

Engleman Conners asks the audience to consider the devastating toll transportation accidents take on families every day. She encouraged use of personal flotation devices when boating, strong booster seat legislation, use of safety belts and enforcement of primary safety belt laws, and stronger legislation targeting hard-core drinking drivers as ways to quickly reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

NTSBACADEMY

Evacuation Slide Inflated During Survival Factors Course

In a class that emphasized practical, hands-on demonstrations, two evacuation slides were inflated during the **Survival Factors in Aviation Accidents** course (August 1-5). **Nora Marshall** and the staff of AS-60 (**Jason Fedok, Cindy Keegan, Mark George, Courtney Liedler**) worked with nine outside instructors to deliver this program to 28 students, nine of which were NTSB investigators. In addition, **Dana Schulze** (AS-40) contributed by teaching a section on investigative reasoning.

Through seminars and a series of exercises and demonstrations, participants learned about a wide range of aircraft accident occupant survivability issues. Primary among them was how emergency equipment in the crucial seconds immediately following an accident can either save or cost lives, depending on how it is used.

The topic proved remarkably timely. With two days left in the course, Nora Marshall was sent to Toronto to support the survival factors documentation efforts of the Canadian Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the Air France runway overrun accident. **Cindy Keegan, Carol Horgan and Bob Benzon** participated also in the investigation.

Emphasizing the importance of this type of training, Marshall said, "We know that many aviation accidents are survivable, as we saw in Toronto, so it's crucial for students to understand what is needed to conduct a thorough survival factors investigation. This is a key component of the process to improve occupant survivability."

By the conclusion of the course, participants had the opportunity to put into practice a variety of skills and techniques that will be used in survival factors investigations in the field.



Participants examine an evacuation slide after it was inflated as part of an exercise.



In OSHA-approved personal protective equipment, participants wrote up field notes as they examined seats and restraint systems in a documentation exercise.



Participants photograph and document key elements of a Jetstream 41 interior.

Congratulations to Mr. Dave Muzio, New Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office



Dave became the Regional Director (RD) of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (MARA), Ashburn, Virginia, in the Office of Aviation Safety on August 22. He was formerly a senior air safety investigator assigned to the Northeast Regional Office (NERA) in Parsippany, New Jersey. Dave began his Safety Board career at NERA as an accident investigator in March 1998, and was promoted to senior air safety investigator in April 2003. During the past several months, Dave has served as the Acting RD of both the MARA and NERA offices. During his career with the Safety Board, Dave has launched as the investigator-in-charge of over 40 field accident investigations, and he handled an additional 200 limited accident investigations. Dave was also assigned as the operations group chairman for the 1999 JFK, Jr., accident investigation, and also for the military-contracted CASA 212 accident that occurred in Afghanistan late last year.

Prior to coming to the Safety Board, Dave was the acting California Army National Guard State Aviation Safety Officer. There he managed a program consisting of 320 mechanics, 200 crewmembers, and 80 aircraft that supported search and rescue, firefighting, and counter drug operations. He was also an Army National Guard quality control branch chief for 10 inspectors at an aviation depot facility that managed over 400 aircraft. Dave is a fixed and rotary wing pilot with over 5,000 hours of flight experience, and he served for over a year on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Congratulations to Ms. Cathy Gagne, Selected Regional Report Writer/Editor in the Office of Aviation Safety



Cathy is currently an Air Safety Investigator (ASI) assigned to the Southern Regional Office (SORA) in Atlanta, Georgia. She started her Safety Board career in Atlanta first as a student volunteer in August 2001, then as a student trainee ASI in September 2002, and finally as a full-fledged ASI in August 2003. During her career with the Safety Board, Cathy launched as the investigator-in-charge of 17 field accident investigations, and she handled an additional 45 limited accident/incident investigations. She has also written several safety recommendation proposals and accomplishments, and a petition for reconsideration response.

Prior to coming to the Safety Board, Cathy was the copy editor of the Concord Monitor (a large, award-winning daily newspaper in New Hampshire), where her duties included proofing and giving final approval for front page articles and editorials. She was also employed as an office manager in an investment services firm, and also as a graduate research assistant, during which time she edited doctoral dissertations, technical research papers, corporate web page text, educational guides, and marketing materials prior to publishing. Cathy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and journalism from the University of New Hampshire and a Masters Degree in aeronautical science and aerospace safety from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is also an active pilot with commercial multiengine instrument privileges.

Cathy will remain in the Atlanta, and will provide support in writing, reviewing, and editing notation items that are generated from the regions, such as field major reports, safety recommendations, and special investigation reports.

Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations

Over the last two weeks, advocacy efforts focused on early identification of State interest in Board recommendations for the 2006 legislatures. Steve Blackistone participated in the National Conference of State Legislatures annual conference, where he discussed open State recommendations with legislators. Immediate results included interest in teen driver cell phone restrictions in Washington State, South Dakota, and Arkansas, and a major effort in Kentucky on primary safety belt, graduated driver licensing, and hard core drinking drivers. Kevin Quinlan met with Maryland Governor Ehrlich's policy advisor to promote consideration of a driving while impaired commission and review of hard core drinking driver programs and legislation. Finally, Danielle Roeber and Stephanie Perkins are working with local advocates and legislators in Wisconsin to get the child booster seat bill adopted there this year.

Advocacy staff also developed and supported a National District Attorney's Association video interview on underage drinking and driving with Acting Chairman Rosenker. The video will be provided to communities and district attorneys to improve underage drinking and driving prevention programs.